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Message Text

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73
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00

(ISO) W
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R 250205Z FEB 75
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3268
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 306

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT,CH
SUBJECT: HUA KUO-FENG AND CHINA'S AGRICULTURE

1. DURING FEBRUARY 20 MEETINGS WITH NEW ZEALAND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES MOYLE, VICE PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG IMPRESSED HIS VISITORS WITH HIS EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF AND PERSONAL INTEREST IN AGRICULTURE. IT SEEMED EVIDENT TO NEW ZEALAND EMBOFF PRESENT THAT HUA HAS RETAINED HIS OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR AGRICULTURAL POLICY ALONG WITH HIS NEW ROLE AS MINISTER OF SECURITY. HIS RELATIONSHIP TO AGRICULTURE MINISTER SHA FENG APPEARED QUITE CLOSE AND SHA NOTED AT ONE POINT THAT HE HAD REPORTED BACK TO HUA FOLLOWING HIS VISIT TO NEW ZAELAND LAST YEAR. NEW ZEALANDERS DESCRIBED HUA AS A VERY AFFABLE, SOFT-SPOKEN MAN WHO QUOTED MAO AND CHOU LIBERALLY THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSION. HIS HEAVY ACCENT CAUSED THE INTERPRETER TO OCCASIONALLY TURN TO SHA FENG FOR A RENDERING OF THE VICE MINISTER'S WORDS IN MORE STANDARD MANDARIN. LIKE MOST OTHERS IN THE PRC LEADERSHIP, HUA IS A HEAVY SMOKER.
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2. TO THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF NEW ZEALAND EMBOFFS HERE, MOYLE'S VISIT ELICITED VERY LITTLE NEW INFORMATION ON THE STATE OF CHINESE AGRICULTURE. AT ONE MEETING, HOWEVER, AMBASSADOR HARLAND ASKED SHA FENG IF A 255 MILLION TON FIGURE FOR 1974 PRC GRAIN PRODUCTION WAS ABOUT RIGHT, AND SHA REPLIED THAT IT WAS HIGHER THAN THAT.
BUSH

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